

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks, wherein Claims 1 and 8 are amended. Claims 1-10 are currently pending in the present application.

As an initial matter, Applicant expresses gratitude to Examiner Peche for the courtesies granted Applicant's attorney during the recent interview. During the interview, certain amendments to Claims 1 and 8 were discussed, in which the Examiner agreed the amendments appeared to overcome the art of record. Applicant is amending Claims 1 and 8 consistent with that agreement. Applicant summarizes the discussions of the interview as provided below.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 01/69041 to *Hakkinen* in view of *Lehtinen et al.* ("Mobile Robots Evolving in Industrial Applications").

Independent Claims 1 and 8 are amended to define that, in the first work area, dead reckoning is used together with an identifier to provide accurate location data. In the second area, only dead reckoning is used to determine the location of the mining vehicle. None of the art of record disclose these patentable features.

Hakkinen discloses the use of two separate vehicles- a measuring vehicle and a mining vehicle. The measuring vehicle includes measuring means for measuring a mine, and a marking device for providing the measured mine with positioning marks. The mining vehicle does not include any measuring devices. *Hakkinen* discloses to first measure and mark the mine with a separate measuring vehicle, and only thereafter, the mining vehicle can be driven accurately in the mine. In fact, it is an object of *Hakkinen* to avoid measuring

devices, such as inertia navigation devices and the like to be used in a mine vehicle, as described on page 2, lines 21-23 and page 3, lines 13-17.

In addition, *Hakkinen* discloses that the same method is used throughout the different mine galleries. That is, the measuring and marking, followed by reading by the mine vehicle, occurs at all locations during the mining operation. In contrast, the present invention now defines that in the second area, dead reckoning is used only wherein as a combination of at least one identifier and dead reckoning is used in the first area.

Moreover, *Lehtinen et al.* fails to make up for the foregoing deficiencies of *Hakkinen*. *Lehtinen et al.* discloses a system that regularly updates exact absolute pose after traveling a certain distance, as described on page 98, left column, at the beginning of the 3rd paragraph, and as shown in Fig. 4. Thus, *Lehtinen et al.* teaches to update the position estimation at all places in the mine, which is something the present invention seeks to avoid. Accordingly, neither reference, in combination or alone, discloses the patentable features of independent Claims 1 and 8.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the method and system of independent Claims 1 and 8, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinguishable over the applied documents. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted at the number indicated below.

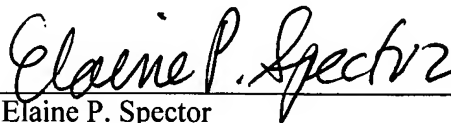
EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this

application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required,
including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit
Account 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR
EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: March 5, 2008
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